

Judge Turns Down Rewald Bail Cut

By Charles Memminger
Star-Bulletin Writer

Ronald R. Rewald, his arms hanging limp at his sides, his head drooping dejectedly, sat motionless yesterday while his attorney argued that his massive \$10 million bail on two theft charges should be reduced.

After a two-hour hearing, however, Judge Robert Chang refused to lower the bail, ruling that it was needed to assure that Rewald would appear at his court trial on the theft charges.

Those charges stem from complaints by two investors of his bankrupt company, Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong, that Rewald spent the \$300,000 they invested.

For the first time, details of Rewald's attempted suicide were made public yesterday when police reports were entered as evidence during the bail hearing.

To show that Rewald might attempt anything, including suicide, to avoid facing trial, city Deputy Prosecutor Peter Carlisle entered as evidence the police report of Rewald's suicide attempt. The report included a copy of a note police said Rewald wrote before he attempted suicide.

ACCORDING to the report, an assistant manager at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel was making rou-

time rounds at about 4 p.m. on July 30 to make sure guests had checked out as scheduled when she came across a horrible scene in Room 1632.

The room was covered with blood, and a man lay on the bathroom floor, his head propped up against the tub. She thought he was dead, the report said.

In moments, security officers arrived. One walked up to the man and could see his eyes were open. He asked the man, who was extremely pale and still, if he was all right and the man mumbled something incomprehensible.

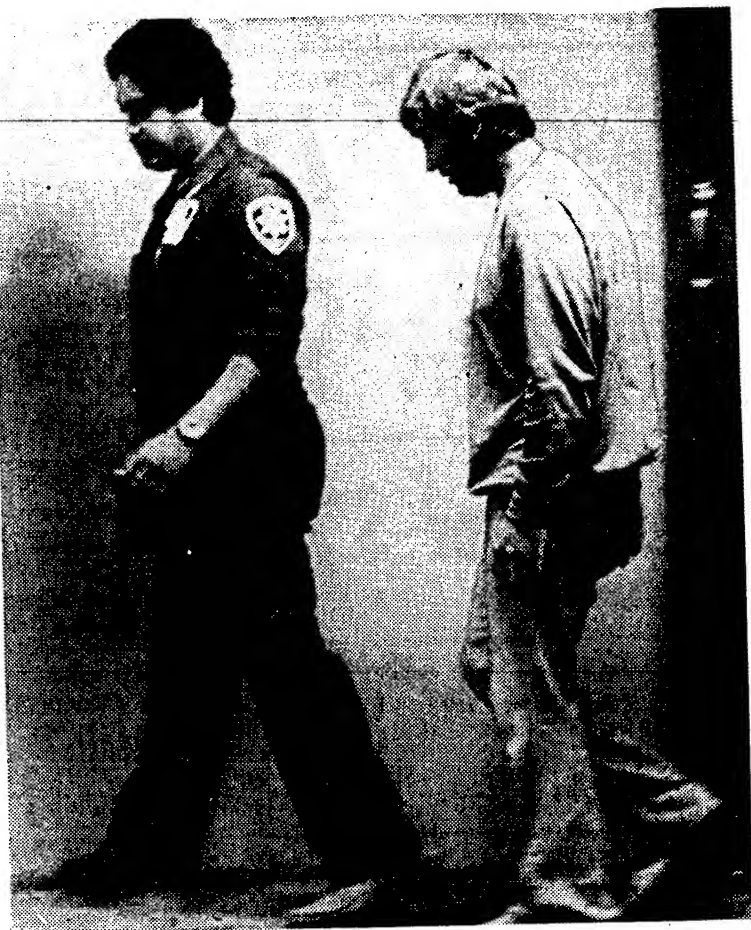
The report said that, before an ambulance arrived, a security guard placed a pillow under the man's head and covered him with a blanket. He urged the man to "stay with us," according to the report.

A bloody razor blade protruded from a case on the bathroom counter, it said.

When police arrived, the man mumbled to officers that he wished he were dead, the report says.

A few minutes later the injured man was rushed barely alive to Queen's Hospital and in the days to follow, Ronald Rewald's name and that of his bankrupt company, would become household words.

The report also contained a
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BACK TO PRISON—Ronald R. Rewald is led from Circuit Court by a guard yesterday after a judge refused to reduce his \$10 million bail on theft charges. Rewald is being held in the Oahu Community Correctional Center. —Star-Bulletin Photo by Ken Sakamoto.

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Suicide Note Entered as Evidence

Judge Won't Trim Rewald's Bail

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copy of a handwritten note from Rewald, which was found on a table in the hotel room.

IN THE NOTE, addressed to his wife, Nancy, Rewald wrote, "I want you to know I never did anything to hurt anyone, someday I pray the truth will be known."

The note also contains an apparent reference to Rewald's claims that he or his company was somehow connected to the CIA or some other government agency.

"I started out working for our country and was abandoned when others feared for their jobs," Rewald wrote. "It never dawned on me that I would be left alone and unprotected."

Rewald ended the note, writing "Forgive me," and then directed his wife to contact attorney James L. Starshak "for things."

Starshak said last night that to comment on why Rewald referred Nancy Rewald to his office would violate his attorney-client relationship.

He did say that it was personal

and had nothing to do with Bishop, Baldwin, Rewald, Dillingham & Wong. Starshak is known in the legal community to specialize in estate planning and wills.

When police found Rewald in the hotel room, the note was found placed neatly on a table along with \$100 in cash and two credit cards. Police investigators said the only clothes in the room were those that Rewald had "neatly folded over the chairs."

ALTHOUGH Rewald recovered from his wounds after a week in the hospital, authorities apparently still are worried about his mental and physical well-being.

In court yesterday, Rewald, unshaven and dressed in a long-sleeved blue sweatshirt and long pants, barely raised his head throughout the hearing.

Robert Smith, Rewald's civil attorney, said earlier in the day that Rewald was at the lowest emotional ebb and was "crushed" by the experience of the past few weeks.

Peter Wolff, representing Rewald at the bail-reduction hearing, acknowledged that there always is risk of flight for a person who has gone "from the pinnacle of success to the jailhouse in short order."

But Wolff said that, with adequate bail — he suggested \$100,000 — and further restrictions ordered by the court, Judge Chang could be assured that Rewald would appear for his trial and also be free to help track down the assets needed to pay off some 400 investors.

Wolff said there was no evidence that Rewald was a threat to the community, only a threat to himself.

He acknowledged the charges

against Rewald were "not the garden variety" but said the bail was unjustified.

CARLISLE described Rewald as desperate and unpredictable.

With millions of dollars in investors' money unaccounted for and Rewald's international connections, releasing Rewald would be a risk too great for the court to take, Carlisle said.

Carlisle said that, if other investors also file charges and Rewald is convicted of all the possible charges against him, he stands to be sentenced to 500 years in prison.

Wolff said a 500-year sentence is as meaningful as \$10 million bail. He said a person would die "well before 500 years" or before he could raise \$10 million bail.

AFTER LISTENING to testimony from bankruptcy trustee Thomas Hayes, attorney Donald Gelber, an FBI agent and a police detective, Judge Chang said Rewald seemed to have "an unfeigned willingness to deal with other people's property, without respect for those people."

Chang said that Rewald's apparent attempt to strike deals with authorities to gain his release in return for helping find company assets, implies that there are assets somewhere.

A person in that situation would be willing to put up half of the money he had "to go to Shanghai — wherever that is — with the rest," Chang said.

Attorney Smith said Rewald is not seeking an agreement to avoid prosecution, but one that would allow him to assist in the finding of company assets without losing his Fifth Amendment guarantees in the process.

Council Panel Okays Hotel Sprinkler Bill

By Christopher Long
Star-Bulletin Writer

six or more units used by transients.

COMMITTEE Chairwoman Welcome Fawcett told reporters she was confident the full Council also would approve the measure and send it to Mayor Eileen Anderson for her signature.

The bill is substantially the same as submitted by Anderson last year, but for the narrowing of its applicability to hotels only. The administration initially wanted to include all pre-1975 high-rises.

Bornhorst urged the committee to hold off on legislation until a more acceptable balance between safety and cost can be reached, perhaps by looking for a technology other than complete sprinkler systems.

"I just can't believe with all the high-rises in the world we can't find some better solution," she said.

A city ordinance that would require fire-sprinkler systems and smoke detectors in all high-rise hotels is in the offing.

The City Council's Community Services Committee yesterday recommended such legislation for full Council approval Sept. 7. The committee's 3-2 vote on the proposal was a rare instance of serious disagreement within the new Council.

Strongly opposing the measure as written was Councilwoman Marilyn Bornhorst, who objected to the definition of hotel contained in the bill. She said it would create a financial problem for too many condominium residents.

"Many Waikiki buildings have a mix of transient and local occupants. If this bill passes, the local residents will share in the ex-



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